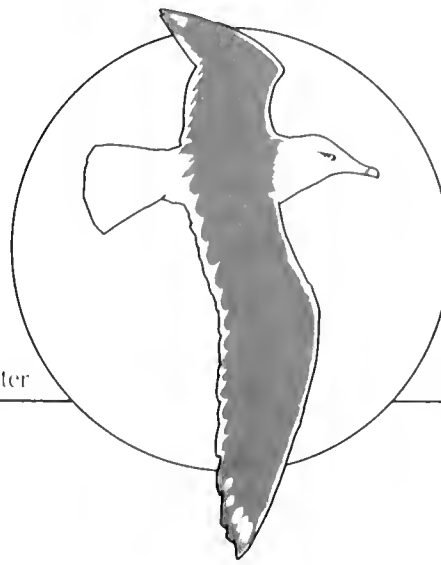


The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 6 June 2001

Volunteer Opportunities at Golden Gate Audubon – A Chance to Do Good and Have Fun, Too

Such opportunities include:

- Joining our Bird Census team at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park Wetland located near the Oakland Airport. We helped restore this 72-acre marsh and now we are monitoring its return to life. The bird numbers are amazing, the site is beautiful and the information very useful to future wetland restoration projects.

- Become an Education

Docent in our Alameda and Oakland education programs. These programs are now in their third year and have proved to be wonderfully exciting for both the children and our docents. In-class presentations are fun and entertaining for the children and our outdoor programs take place at one of the most beautiful birding sites in the East Bay.

- Join our Friends of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge Committee. This Committee works with the soon-to-be Refuge establishing and enhancing habitat for the endangered California Least Tern and doing whatever else is necessary to help the Refuge and its critters flourish.

- Volunteer for our San Francisco Save the Quail Campaign which consists, in

part, of establishing Quail habitat in San Francisco. While our Campaign is still in the beginning stages, we have already held four planting and weeding events. Join up for the next get your hands dirty restoration event.

- Join our Speakers Bureau—we get many requests for presentations to Girls Scouts/ Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, etc. We have slides of birds you can use and even scripts.

- We often get requests for us to lead trips for Girl and Boy Scouts, school classes, etc. Join our team of volunteers who enjoy working with kids and showing them the wonders of birds and nature.

- Become one of our regular Field Trip leaders. You don't have to be an expert birder. You just have to know the area you are going to bird and be able to identify most of the common birds. It's OK if you are not able to identify the rarities.

- Join a Committee. We are in great need of Membership, Education and Publicity Chairpersons. Also, our existing Committees can always use help. Such committees include our Conservation Committees (East Bay and San Francisco), Program Committee, Publishing Committee and WebPages Committee.

- Become a writer for our newsletter, The Gull. One of our greatest needs is for someone to write up what we do. GGAS is tremendously active in preserving wildlife habitat, in providing environmental education and leading bird-related recreational

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Illustrating Birds Program Set For June 16th at Strybing

On June 16th, Jack Laws of California Academy of Sciences and Alan Hopkins of Golden Gate Audubon Society will co-lead an event on illustrating birds. 9am to 1pm

Meet at 9am at the front gate of the Strybing Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way). Look at birds and their characteristics in the field. The arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a variety of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds.

At 10, we will go over to the CAS and look at the Audubon exhibit, see how one famous illustrator approached birds. Then, from 11-1, we will look deeper into illustrating birds.

Continues on page 8

Audubon Receives Million-Dollar Grant For Wetlands Protection

Tulare Basin to Benefit from Federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant

The National Audubon Society has received a million-dollar North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, allowing the conservation group to launch a program to restore and enhance wetlands and uplands in the historic Tulare Basin of the southern Central Valley of California.

The NAWCA grant, the first to apply to the southern San Joaquin, will support the acquisition and restoration of wetlands on 2,762 acres; the restoration of an additional 200 acres; and the enhancement of more than 22,400 acres. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) will partner with Audubon to deliver the projects.

"Historic Goose Lake, along with Tulare, Kern, and Buena Vista Lakes, once provided homes for millions of waterfowl and shorebirds. Today, these areas are dry in all but the wettest of winters. This project allows a desperately needed restoration of what was once among the nation's most significant wetland habitats," says Audubon California State Director Dan Taylor. "We look forward to working with Ducks Unlimited to help this area recover its natural resource value."

"The work will focus upon improving water delivery systems to restored and existing wetlands, enhancing levee systems, and restoring wetland basins. Nesting cover adjacent to the wetland projects also will be enhanced," says Ducks Unlimited Project Leader Dan Connelly.

Less than 1 percent of the Tulare Basin's historic 520,000 acres of wetlands and seasonal wetlands has survived agriculture and development. The grant is expected to have major, long-term environmental benefits to

waterfowl, shorebirds and mammals. A total of 214 bird species have been counted in the region's remaining wetlands.

Partners contributing to the habitat rescue effort include the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, private landowners, the Semi-tropic Water District, and DU. Partner funds and matching funds total over \$11 million of the \$12.78 million proposal.

Wildlife benefiting from the project includes numerous duck species, such as Northern Pintail, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Redheads, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck and the American Wigeon. The Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black-headed Grosbeak, Tri-colored Blackbird, Western Grebe, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, American Avocet, Western Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, and dozens of others will also benefit.

The effort to create permanent and seasonal wetlands hinges, in part, on the pipeline project by the Semi-tropic Water District. The pipeline will play a major role in supplying water, particularly during drought periods.

Land acquisitions will be made through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program. The 2,762 acres will be converted into 1,657 acres of seasonal wetlands and 1,105 acres of associated uplands. Acquisitions are expected to cost \$3.6 million.

Founded in 1905, Audubon connects people with nature through education and experience on the land. We help children, families, and adults from all walks of life develop an understanding of and appreciation of birds and other wildlife. We inspire them and give them the tools to act on behalf of the environment – in their own homes and communities, as well as on the national level and beyond.

Tulare Basin Wetlands Restoration Project Fact Sheet

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant-funded program to restore and enhance wetlands in Tulare Basin will fund the following habitat improvements:

Willow Creek Ranch/Badger Almond Restoration

The area constitutes the major portion of the western edge of historic Goose Lake. A total of 2,762 acres will be restored to wetlands and uplands. Work will include contouring the laser-leveled agricultural fields, constructing levees and installing water controls.

Kern National Wildlife Refuge Water Control

More than 4,600 acres of the refuge will be enhanced through the construction of levees and installation of water control structures. The work will cost approximately \$7.9 million.

South Pintail Pipeline

An area of private wetland parcels will benefit from the construction of lateral irrigation pipelines from the South Pintail Pipeline. These wetlands have depended upon deep water wells, limiting the ability to maintain or expand wetlands. The establishment of a reliable and less costly water source will benefit 2,236 acres.

Goose Lake/Perimeter Water Delivery Ditch, Habitat Enhancement

Two peripheral water supply ditches will be constructed to supply water to existing wetland acres and create a water resource for future wetland development. The area involves about 2,900 acres, and 1,450 of those are currently managed as wetlands.

Continues on page 11

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch

From Betsy Stafford

The Eagle Has Landed Again

Extraordinary circumstances led our Bolinas Lagoon Preserve Biologist, Greg de Nevers, to write the following message on April 7th to all our ACR friends:

"On Monday, April 2, a Golden Eagle visited the heron and egret colony in Picher Canyon at Audubon Canyon Ranch. The eagle killed and ate one adult Great Egret. All the other egrets abandoned the colony and went to the lagoon. The Great Blue Herons in the trees closer to the lagoon lay low in their nests. After the eagle ate the egret, it left. At that point the resident pair of Common Ravens, who are territorial in Picher Canyon, entered the up-canyon trees and ate or cached all of the eggs (about 20). Since it is common for nesting herons and egrets to become extremely skittish in response to predator disturbances, ACR closed

Picher Canyon to the school program for the week. Happily, the egrets returned Monday afternoon, and by Tuesday, they were displaying, courting, laying eggs and incubating again.

On Friday evening, April 6, the eagle returned. This time all the herons and egrets abandoned the colony and flew to the lagoon. A few herons returned after the eagle left, but no egrets had returned by dark. This time the ravens were not in the vicinity and didn't take any eggs. By morning of the 7th the herons and egrets were back in the trees, but, needless to say, they were very disturbed and skittish. Since ACR's priority is to protect the nesting birds, it was decided to close the preserve to the public on the weekend of April 6 and 7."

This 2001 story of the Golden Eagle and Common Raven predation was written on April 7 and will, of course, be ongoing. We encourage

you to call ahead to the ACR office (415/668-9244) before you visit the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve this spring, and we look forward to a busy and fruitful nesting season. In the meantime, please hold a good thought for the herons and egrets.

Research At Cypress Grove Preserve

Our annual San Francisco Bay Heron and Egret Project (HEP!) provides a necessary and accurate look at regional patterns and trends of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Black-Crowned Night Herons throughout five North Bay counties. The remaining observation periods this year are June 2-4, and June 16-18. To learn more about this important project and to receive a 2001 HEP packet, please contact ACR's Cypress Grove Preserve Research Center at 415/663-8203.

How to Invest With Good Conscience

Nowadays, we have many choices in how to invest our income. Most, if not all of us would like to make investments that do not subsidize industries or activities that threaten the health of our natural world or that have damaging social implications but that still provide us with a satisfactory return on our dollar. This is called Environmental and Socially Conscious Investing.

Is it possible to invest in environmentally sound companies or mutual funds and still have the expectation of a reasonable or, even better, a large return on our investments? The answer, happily, is yes. The question

is how.

To answer that question, the Golden Gate Audubon Society is pleased to invite you to a Seminar on Environmentally and Socially Conscious Investing to be held in the late afternoon, 3 to 5PM on Friday, October 26, 2001.

Investment advisors from Mellon Private Asset Management, a division of the Mellon Bank, who are expert in environmental and socially conscious investment will join us and explain the many ways that one can invest with good conscience. They will, of course, not restrict themselves to Mellon Bank portfolios but will explain the whole realm of opportu-

nities available to us. Mellon Private Asset Management is the investment and private banking division of the 130-year old Mellon Bank. They manage \$600 billion worldwide for private individuals, families, and university and charitable foundations. Their San Francisco office manages a large number of socially conscious portfolios for these groups.

Please set the date aside and plan to join us. If you are interested, please call the office for more information. Following the seminar there will be time for light refreshments and cocktails and socializing with each other, and GGAS staff and Board members.



Audubon Armchair Activist

Audubon's Letter of the Month Club

April 6, 2001

Issue of the Month:

REFORMING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Audubon On Corps Reform

Prior to adjourning for their Easter break, Representative Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin) and Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin) introduced bill numbers H.R. 1310 in the U.S. House, and S.646 in the U.S. Senate — legislation to reform the project review and authorization procedures at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps.) The Corps is responsible for civil works projects that include planning, designing, building and operating water resources. Its mission is large and vital in flood protection, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, and recreation.

In recent years, the Corps has assumed a more significant role in the areas of environmental protection and restoration. However, the Corps has come under intense fire because of alleged improprieties in connection with several controversial water resource projects, particularly their call for lock and dam expansion along the Upper Mississippi River. This project - which has been placed on hold - would have resulted in a boondoggle of monumental proportions, and would have cost taxpayers over \$1.2 billion. The project was stopped after an economist with the Corps exposed the agency's manipulation of cost-benefit studies of projects on the Upper Mississippi River.

In light of this situation, many of the Corps waterway projects have been put on hold, as Congress, the Administration and government agencies

try to restore the Corps' reputation and get the agency back on track.

Audubon believes H.R.1310/S.646 is a good solution. This legislation seeks to increase fiscal responsibility and public accountability of the Corps. These reforms include increasing public participation and input at the outset of every proposed project. The bill creates new advisory and review procedures for the Corps; requires that information on water resource project analyses be made available for review by the public throughout the planning process, and ensures that environmental damages incurred by project construction are fully mitigated. This will require the Corps to acquire and restore an acre of similar habitat to replace each acre of habitat negatively impacted by a project.

H.R.1310/S.646 is an important bill for Audubon and its Upper Mississippi River Campaign, an effort that seeks to return the Upper Mississippi and its watershed to a place where people prosper, and birds, fish and wildlife thrive in a healthy environment. But remember, this issue doesn't solely affect the Upper Mississippi River region - it affects all 50 states where the Corps coordinates its water resource projects. And all federal lawmakers from all 50 states will cast votes on this critical legislation - legislation that if passed, can ensure a safer and healthier habitat for birds, wildlife, and people, too.

sample letter:

So please help encourage your lawmaker to weigh in and support H.R.1310/S.646!

SAMPLE LETTER:

Your Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Representative/Senator:

As a constituent concerned with conservation, I am writing to you to urge you to support H.R.1310/S.646 - legislation to reform the project review and authorization procedures at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

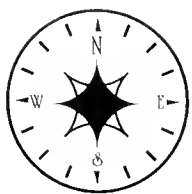
No one disagrees that the Corps mission is large and vital in flood protection, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, recreation, and they have assumed a more significant role in environmental protection and restoration. However, due to their alleged improprieties in connection with several controversial water resource projects, specifically the lock and dam expansion project along the Upper Mississippi River, when combined with enormous outlay of taxpayer dollars required to complete their tasks, reform is desperately needed to increase the Corps fiscal responsibility and public accountability. These reforms should include increasing public participation and input at the outset of every proposed project, seeking a balance between the economic developments of a project with other social priorities, and mitigating the environmental damages caused.

Passage of this bill will positively impact all of the Corps water projects, including one in our area, thus ensuring safer and healthier habitat for people, birds and wildlife. Please let me know where you stand on this bill, and what you believe its chances for passage are this year.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Your Name



Field Trips Calendar

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3, YOSEMITE'S BIRD LIFE.

See March GULL for more details. Meet Friday, June 1, at 3 p. m. and on Saturday, June 2, and Sunday, June 3 at 7 a.m. in the parking lot just inside the Hwy. 120 (Big Oak Flat) entrance to the Park. Leaders: Dave Quady (510) 704-9353 and Bob Lewis. \$ (*)

Sunday, June 3, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way). Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241 and Harry Fuller.

Wednesday June 13, MINI-TRIP TO REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK, Oakland.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the small parking lot on the left, just past the kiosk. Take the Warren Freeway (Hwy. 13), exit onto Redwood Road, and proceed east about 3 miles to the park entrance on the left. We may see Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Bullock's Oriole, Solitary, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Bring lunch. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$(*)

Friday, June 15, BIRDS AND "THE BARD", Ashland, Oregon.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in front of Ashland Bakery, 38 East Main Street. We'll bird Lithia Park and climb Mount Ashland for a chance at some mountain birds. Dress for cool on the mountain. Bring lunch, water and sun block. Leader: Harry Fuller. For advance information: (415) 668-8229 before June 7.

Saturday, June 16, HAYWARD SHORELINE.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Hayward Shoreline Visitor Center at the end of Breakwater Avenue for this half-day trip. Take I-880 to Hwy 92 (Hayward/San Mateo Bridge exit).

Exit at Clawiter, cross Clawiter onto Breakwater Court. Turn left onto Breakwater Ave. There will be breeding swallows, baby stilts and avocets, and perhaps, Black Skimmers. Bring lunch and liquids. Beginners welcome. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001, E-mail: RlewisO727@aol.com.

Saturday, June 16, AQUATIC PARK SAN FRANCISCO.

9:30-11:30 am. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier at Hyde and Jefferson Streets. Join National Park Ranger Carol Kiser on a beginner's walk to discover birds next door to the urban environment. Wheelchair accessible. (415)928-1318

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, YUBA PASS, SIERRA VALLEY.

See April/May GULL for more details. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at Yuba Pass summit (Hwy. 49), 19 miles east of Sierra City. Meet Sunday at 8 a.m. at Hwy. 49 and 89, one mile north of Sattley. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (*)

Friday-Sunday, June 29 - July 1, LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK.

Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to Lassen. Meet at the Manzanita Lake Campgrounds store at 6:30 a.m. on Friday and again on Sunday. On Saturday, meet by the camp store at 7:30 a.m. to caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake.

Sunday, meet at 10:30 a.m. to drive through the park. We should reach the south entrance around 1 p.m., depending upon how long we play in the snow at the summit.

Stop at our campsite for further information. We will have a campfire every evening beginning at 8 p.m. Check the campground bulletin boards or the office at Hat Creek Resort for our poster, campsite number, and any last minute changes in the schedule. Leaders: Dan and Joan

Murphy (415) 564-0074. murphsf@worldnet.att.net. \$(*)

Sunday, July 8, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241 and Harry Fuller.

Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29, YOSEMITE ALPINE ECOLOGY.

Snow conditions at the time of this writing make selection of any specific location for this year's outing impossible. However, expect a full day's hike in the high country on Saturday, and a shorter hike, returning to our cars at about 3 p.m. on Sunday. Due to its popularity, this trip will be by reservation only, and the numbers participating will be strictly limited. This is not primarily a birding trip, but will emphasize general Alpine ecology. All participants should be in good physical condition, with reasonable experience in hiking and climbing at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, where we will be. Each day you should bring lunch, ample fluids, hat, water repellent jacket, sun screen, mosquito repellent, and good walking shoes or boots with treaded soles (no smooth-soled tennis or other shoes, please). We will possibly be traversing snow fields after the heavy winter snows in the Sierra.

County and Forest Service campgrounds are located between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining off Hwy. 120 (4 to 6 miles west of Hwy. 395), as well as Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining include Best Western Lakeview Lodge (760/647-6543), Gateway Motel (760/647-6767), and Murphy's Motel

(760/647-6316). For trip reservations and meeting details call - Leader: George Peyton (510) 433-2600 weekdays. \$ (*).

Friday-Monday, August 24-27, BACKPACKING TRIP IN LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK.

We will backpack in three miles to Snag Lake and spend three nights in primitive camping by a stream near a large meadow. We should see flocks

of mixed warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, plus resident birds of the mountains, Bald Eagles, and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be above 6,000 ft. elevation in beautiful country! To avoid impact in fragile habitat, this trip is limited to 12 people. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some cooperative or shared meals may be arranged. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich. For details contact

David Rice at (510) 527-7210 or drice@jps.net.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

Field Trip Reports June, 2001

San Francisco Bird Blitz, Saturday March 24, Leader: Alan Hopkins. 12 participants, 116 species(!). Alan leads this annual trip, scouring the city for all it's worth and with impressive results. **Land's End/Lake Merced**, Saturday, April 14, Leader: Harry Fuller. 45 participants, 51 species including 20 nests. Myra Ulvang scouted the nests in the Sutro Heights area. Some highlights were nesting Great Blue Herons, Allen's Hummingbirds,

Brandt's and Double-crested cormorants. Courting Hooded Oriole and Pied-billed Grebe were also observed. **Point Reyes National Seashore Thirteenth Annual All-Day Birding Blitz**, Saturday April 21, Leaders: Leon Abrams and Cathy Purchis. 15 participants, 85+ species including Red-necked Grebe, Leach's Storm-petrel, Purple Martin and more. **San Bruno Mountains**, Sunday April 22, Leaders: Herb Brandt and Doug

Allshouse. 35 participants, 50 species. Highlights included nesting Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler and Allen's Hummingbirds. **Mines Road**, Saturday, April 28, Leader: George Bing. 20 participants, 75 species. This yearly trip yields some of the best birding in the area. Larwence's Goldfinch, Lewis's Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird and Costa's Hummingbird topped the list.

Donations

Special Grant

An anonymous grant of \$5000 from the Hesperornis Fund in support of the *Common Birds of Panama* publication project of the Latin America Committee of the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)
Carol A. Sughrue

Least Tern (\$200 or more)
Helen McKenna Ridley and Allan Ridley
Barbara and Barry Deutsch
Anne and Boyard Rowe
Margaret D. and Winton McKibben

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Elizabeth and James Flack
James Hand
A. L. Howard
Eric William Preston
Martha and Craig Spriggs

Gifts (to \$99)

Cristina and Derek Heins, Elizabeth Rieger, Cordelia Neal, Lillian Fujii and Steven Hayashi, Mary and John Meunier, Martha Ann Singer, Susan and Michael Meadows, and Ralph Danels.

In Memorium

Lenore and Herbert Griffin in

memory of **Barbara Bacon Hinshaw**, Janet and Jim Leibeck in memory of **Caroline and Don Plant**.

Appreciation

Our appreciation to Dr. Carla Cicero, the speaker at April's Member meeting, who donated her speaker's honorarium.

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.

California's Cormorants

By Harry Fuller

From the first, English-speaking naturalists in North America referred to this family of birds as "cormorants." In 1791 William Bartram's *Travels* listed "Florida Cormorant" as a species he had seen. Thus we escaped the inelegant "shag," the name of a European cousin to American cormorants.

The word "cormorant" has a long history and is derived from the Latin for the popular name "sea crow." In Latin that is *corvus marinus*. Centuries of use turned that into "cormorant."

The Doubled-crested Cormorant is the one Bartram had earlier named for Florida. However, the scientifically accepted description of this species was published by Rene Lesson (1794-1849) in 1831. Lesson had been a naturalist and naval surgeon on the "Le Coquille" which sailed under the French flag. The ship left France in 1822, returning in 1825. Over the next decade Lesson wrote and published a series of books on birds and general natural history. Lesson named our Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*. "Auritus" means "brushy," referring to the bird's thin pale eyebrows during breeding season. Lesson was the first scientist to see the Bird of Paradise in the southwestern Pacific. He also wrote several works on hummingbirds.

The Double-crested is the only cormorant species common in both

California and the eastern U. S.

The Pelagic Cormorant was once known in the U.S. as Baird's Cormorant. Its range is limited to the northern Pacific in an arc of nearshore waters from Japan northward to Alaska, then south to Baja California. This bird was first described for science by Peter Simon Pallas, a German scientist working for the Russian Zoological Museum in St. Petersburg. Pallas (1741-1811) moved to Russia in 1768 and joined a natural history expedition to Siberia from 1768-74. It is possible he collected the first Pelagic Cormorant himself, or it may have been sent back to Saint Petersburg by another Russian explorer.

Pallas also wrote the first scientific descriptions of several other northern Pacific birds including Steller's Eider, Tufted Puffin, Pigeon Guillemot, Red-throated Loon and Cassin's Auklet.

Brandt's Cormorant is the third common species found in California waters. Its breeding colonies are primarily along the California and Baja coast though it is found as far north as Alaska. The first scientific description of this species was written by Johann Friedrich von Brandt (1802-79). He was another German scientist working in the Zoological Museum at St. Petersburg, Russia. He had arrived in Russia in 1831. In 1838 he published his brief description and Latin name for this "new" cormorant

species.

Brandt himself never visited the Americas, his work largely confined to museum curation. It is likely the specimen he had in St. Petersburg came from either Baron Langsdorff who visited the eastern Pacific from 1803-6 or from Johann Eschscholtz who visited the Pacific shores of North America twice between 1815 and 1826. Both naturalists spent some time in San Francisco which then was composed of Mission Dolores and the Presidio. Eschscholtz was one of the first botanists in central California. He collected and described many common California coastal plants. He was honored with the genus name of the California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) by a fellow scientist. That original poppy specimen was collected in San Francisco.

Besides his namesake cormorant, Brandt also wrote the first descriptions of the Red-legged Kittiwake and the Spectacled Eider (now extinct). His description of the kittiwake was first published by another scientist, however. His lengthy productive scientific career in Russia included not just birds but mammals, fishes and fossil studies. Brandt's Cormorant remains among us, a reminder that much of the early scientific work in the northern Pacific was done by early Russian expeditions before 1840.

Volunteers Needed...

Continued from page 1

activities but we're all too busy to write about it so we hardly ever get news of our activities into the Gull. Here's a chance to hone your writing skills.

- Become a bird-question resource for the GGAS Office. Almost every day we get questions about birds. "What is that bird waking me up in the middle of the night?" (Answer, Mockingbird). That's the easy one.

"Could I have seen a Painted Bunting?" (Answer, yes it was probably an escaped bird). As you can see, some questions are pretty easy but some, especially the bird identification questions, can be challenging and lots of fun to work out.

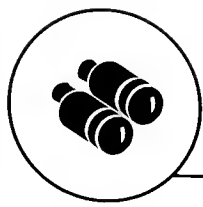
- Volunteer to take visiting birders on birding tours. Every once in a while we get calls from out-of-town visitors who want to know if someone is interested in taking them birding for a day or half-day. If you are interested in doing this, let us know

(our volunteers who do it say it's a lot of fun and you meet interesting people).

When you become a GGAS volunteer you join a group of people who are having fun doing worthwhile activities that are extremely rewarding. You'll have fun and meet great people.

To join us just call the GGAS office at 510-843-2222 or email us at ggas@compuserve.com

We look forward to hearing from you.



Attracting Birds To Your Back Yard

How can I get birds to use my feeder at our new house?" asked a friend. Without mature landscaping, it will be a challenge. Anyone who has moved into a new home knows how bare things are. Where do you start?

I began to read and to think about what one needs to attract wildlife in general to your yard. Virtually all wildlife requires four things for survival. First, you need enough space to hold the other three necessities: water, food and shelter.

Since different species have different requirements, you will need to assess what you want to attract and then learn about what it specifically needs. Do you adore butterflies? There are many plants that attract them. Can't resist reptiles? Try a rock wall with lots of hiding places. How about those creepy-crawlies in the insect world? There are beneficial bugs, you know. They could really help you rely less on insecticides if you plant what they like. There are a host of mammals that spend the night in your yard. I'm thrilled to have bats. Lastly, you wouldn't be reading this if you weren't obsessed with birds. You might be lucky enough to have it all!

Take a stroll around your property with an eye to what its strengths and weaknesses are. If your space is small, it may be that you will have more passers-by in the animal world than resident species. That could be exciting since you would never know "who" was going to drop by. An apartment-dweller has another set of circumstances. A very handy book to

read is "Attracting Backyard Wildlife" by Bill Merilees. He has all sorts of practical ideas for your yard or your deck or balcony, whatever the size.

To answer my friend, I suggested she move her feeder near shrubs or trees so that the birds have a place to escape to if a predator appeared. Also, water will attract birds even more readily than food. When taking stock of your yard, think about a water source. A few of you may have a creek or other natural source. Lucky you! I've found that the sound of my fountain will lure birds for bathing as well as for drinking, especially on hot summer days. You don't have to be fancy, however. A very slow drip from a hose into a plastic garbage can lid will do the trick. If you have a lot of cats lurking around, I suggest you don't put it on the ground but devise something else. A bird bath or two spotted around the yard work well. Please make sure that there is someplace for the wet bird to perch till he can fly away: a shrub, tree or even a metal sculpture.

Most yards aren't spacious enough to provide everything in terms of shelter. Shelter includes protection from severe weather, or a place to rest safely, somewhere to roost at night, or places to hide from danger and plenty of room for nesting and raising the "kids". Take a look around and you may be surprised. What may look unpromising could be a treasure. An old snag of a tree looks like a mansion to numerous cavity-nesting birds. A rock wall is not only a hiding place for lizards, but attracts insects that wrens find irresistible.

That old stump is rotting but full of insects too. As long as that Monterey pine is healthy leave it where it can sustain a myriad of species. What some people term "weeds" are attractive to butterflies, insects and goldfinches. That patch of dirt is perfect for dust-bathing in the morning sun by the doves or quail.

Food needs change with the seasons. Not only will you be trying to lure in birds, they are likely to be different birds in summer from wintertime. Putting out the usual bird feeders with a sampling of foods helps, but birds love all sorts of native plants and many flowers and plants from the nursery. Variety is the key. Conifers provide wonderful shelter in wintertime, a super look-out for an owl, and food for a number of bird species. Many deciduous trees have blossoms and fruit in spring and summer and berries in fall and winter. For example, no self-respecting cedar waxwing could pass up the hawthorn tree's berries. Hummingbirds are suckers for a large number of flowering plants, many easy to grow.

Be realistic. Try to educate yourself on what birds, animals, etc. you might expect to find where you live. Then be patient. Not all those critters know where your garden of Eden is yet. The joy of being in your yard or looking out the window at your very own nature preserve cannot be measured. I'm certain that those of us who revel in nature live happier and (hopefully) longer lives.

GGAS Needs Help Getting into the Internet Age

Well, not really, but we sure can use help in the fine details. For example, we will probably be moving our GGAS Education office to Oakland and we will need help in networking our computers.

So, are there any computer tech folk out there who would be willing to volunteer to help us get our computer setup to be as efficient as it can be (in particular the hardware side of things)? If so, please call the GGAS office at 510-843-2222 or email us at ggas@compuserve.com Thanks.



A few late storms kept the grass green late in the period, while along the coast, thousands of Loons and Brants migrating north were visible from several coastal locations. Returning migrants were filling the air with song, with Black-headed Grosbeaks, Warbling Vireos, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers being among the more vociferous species in the East Bay Parklands near my home. However, only two review species were reported during the period, the lowest number since I began this job in 1997.

Vultures to Ducks.

Ventana Wilderness Society announced the April release of 5 more juvenile California Condors into the wild, making a total of 19 on the Central California Coast. May this be a good argument for continued implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Now if they would just breed! Five Greater White-fronted Geese were at the Arzino Ranch, SCL, Apr. 2 (AE, DG, MM), another continued at Lake Merced, SF, Apr. 14 (PS, KM, JW), and two more were on a MTY county beach Apr. 22 (AG). A Snow Goose remained at Sunnyvale sewage ponds, SCL, Apr. 7 (MM), as did another at Lake Cunningham, SCL, Apr. 16 (BR, FV), and a third coastal individual was at Arcata, HUM, Apr. 5 (KR). A Ross's Goose continued at Lake Cunningham, SCL, Apr. 16 (BR, FV), and one other was at Manila, HUM, Apr. 5 (PSP). 3000 of the small "Aleutian" race of the Canada Goose were at Arcata, HUM, Apr. 5 (KR).

The only Eurasian Wigeon reported was seen at Arcata, HUM, Mar. 31 (PSP). A member of the "Eurasian" race of Green-winged Teal was found near Crittenden Marsh, SCL, Apr. 1 (MD). Three Long-tailed Ducks (for-

merly Oldsquaws) were observed: one off the mudflats near COSTCO, in El Cerrito, CC, Apr. 22 (AH, RF), another on Lake Tahoe, ED, Apr. 22 (LL), and the third in Coyote Point CP, SM, Apr. 19 (DA). Hooded Mergansers in SCL county remained well into the period, with 2 at the Shoreline salt ponds near Charleston Slough, SCL, at least through Apr. 5 (RC, MR), 1 to 3 at Adobe Creek, SCL, Apr. 2–24 (BB, VT, JY), 2 at Oka Ponds, SCL, Apr. 7–12 (LS), and one each at Arastradero Preserve, SCL, Apr. 21 (JHi), and the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, SCL, Apr. 23 (BB).

Eagles to Skimmers.

A Bald Eagle flew over Skyline Blvd, (SCL/SM), Apr. 19 (GS). A light-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen over Capitola, SCZ, Mar. 8 (DSu), and 2 Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Ferndale, HUM, Apr. 10 (TM), with another at Arcata, HUM, Apr. 5 (PSP). Meanwhile, a Golden Eagle returned to hunt in Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, Apr. 3 (DAI). The **Greater Sandplover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) obligingly remained at Seadrift near Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, through at least Apr. 13, giving even more birders the opportunity to witness the only Western Hemisphere record for this species (LCo, DQ, MS). An unusually high number of 23 Surfbirds was spotted at the Cliff House, SF, Apr. 1 (ME). Ruffs were in the news again this period with one at Arzino Ranch, SCL, Apr. 10 (VT), and apparently another individual near Spreckles and State Sts., Alviso, SCL, Apr. 11–14 (MR, BR, FV, MOB).

A Glaucous Gull was found at Marin Civic Center Lagoon, MRN, for about 2 weeks up to at least Apr. 8 (FA, SJD). A single Arctic Tern was seen again this spring at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, Apr. 23 (BRi), but it was not reported whether it is

the same bird that hybridized with a Forster's Tern at that location in past seasons. A Least Tern was observed at Johnson's Oyster Farm, PRNS, MRN, Apr. 8 (JL). A banded Black Skimmer was found at the Corte Madera Pond, MRN, Apr. 1 (MU). This was the second year in a row for a banded Black Skimmer at that location, but it evidently was a different bird. The Charleston Slough, SCL, Black Skimmers remained, numbering up to 14 individuals, with as yet unconfirmed rumors of nesting activity for a pair of them (BB, MR, RC). Another Black Skimmer was at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, Apr. 23 (BRi), and 3 more were spotted over Don Edwards SF Bay Wildlife Refuge, SCL, Apr. 24 (CM).

Nighthawks to Finches.

A Lesser Nighthawk, rare on the coast, was at MacKerricher SP, MEN, Apr. 19 (DT). A few Black-chinned Hummingbirds were observed; one in a private yard in Watsonville, MTY, Apr. 15 (AS), with others at private feeders near Pinnacles National Monument, SBT, Apr. 23 (JM), and one at the UCSC Arboretum, SCZ, Apr. 25 (JG). A Costa's Hummingbird continued at Del Puerto Canyon Rd., STA, Apr. 3 (FB), another was identified at Morre Creek, SCZ, Apr. 19 (DSu), and a third at the UCSC Arboretum, SCZ, Apr. 25 (JG). This has been a good spring for Calliope Hummingbirds, with 4 birds reported: one each at Ed Levin CP, SCL, Apr. 19 (BR, FV), a private feeder in Antioch, CC, Apr. 23 (JB), Winton Ave., Hayward, ALA, Apr. 23 (BR), and in Soquel Demonstration SFO, SCZ, Apr. 25 (DSu). Many Hammond's Flycatchers were reported, with 4–18 in Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo SP, CC, Apr. 14–18 (SG, JT), 2 at Diablo Mountains, CC, Apr. 14 (MM, MR), 4 at Grant Ranch CP, SCL, Apr. 15

(MR), 3 at Castle Rock Regional Park, CC, Apr. 16 (JT), 1-2 around Henry Coe Park, SCL, Apr. 18-23 (JC, MM), and 4 at the Pinnacles National Monument, SBT, Apr. 23 (JM). There were also single Dusky Flycatchers at AMSP, MTY, Apr. 15 (RiF) and in a private yard in Lafayette, CC, Apr. 16 (JT). The "Buffalo Paddock" Tropical Kingbird remained in GGP, SF, through at least Apr. 18 (RFe, ME, MS, MOB).

A Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) at William Pond Park, Carmichael, SAC, Apr. 18 (DW) is the only new review species noted this month. This thrush is an Eastern U.S., Alaskan, and Canadian relative of our local *Catharus* species (Hermit and Swainson's thrushes), and has similar plumage that can pose an identification challenge. According to Small, 1994, it is an exceedingly rare spring transient with most previous Northern CA records from the Farallones or the coast. Uncommon Wood Warblers were limited to 4 species during the period (see Chart). A Summer Tanager near Stinson Beach, MRN, Mar. 20 was reported too late for inclusion in last month's column (JT).

A Grasshopper Sparrow continued at Del Puerto Canyon Rd., STA, Apr. 3 (FB), another was at Grant Ranch CP, SCL, Apr. 14 (MR), and 1-2 others were spotted at Ed Levin Park, SCL, Apr. 19-21 (BR, FV, MOB). White-

throated Sparrows were still found in good numbers, mostly in San Francisco, with one at Pine Lake, SF, Apr. 1-21 (RFe, DM, JW, MOB), 2 at Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF (AR), 1 at Mt. Davidson, SF, Apr. 9 (PS), 2 at the California Academy of Sciences, GGP, SF, Apr. 16 (ASH), 1 on Lick Mt., SF, Apr. 16 (ASH), 1 at Arastradero Preserve, SCL, Apr. 21 (JHi), and 1 in Santa Cruz, SCZ, Apr. 22 (JH). Three Harris's Sparrows showed up: 1 at a private feeder west of Pinto Lake, SCZ, Apr. 11-21 (WM), another at Coyote Point CP, SM, Apr. 11 (RSTh), and the third at Susanville, LAS, Apr. 11 (EE). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at a private feeder in Pacific Grove, MTY, Apr. 15 (AC), and a second was reported at Kalkar Quarry, SCZ, Apr. 19 (DSu). Ed Levin Park, SCL, hosted a Blue Grosbeak Apr. 21 (MM, PLT). Single Great-tailed Grackles were found at Zmudowski State Beach, MTY, Mar. 31 (BA) and near Corralitos, SCZ, Apr. 7 (DSu), while a pair was reported near Hollister, SBT, Apr. 9 (LC). A Baltimore Oriole favored Pine Lake, SF, Apr. 11-17 (KN, DM, RF, MOB), one among three oriole species seen there that day (the others were Bullock's and Hooded Orioles), and a second Baltimore Oriole stayed at Arcata, HUM, Apr. 6-21 (EE, RH). An unusual coastal, lowland sighting of Cassin's Finch occurred at Coyote Point CP, SM, Apr. 18 (RSTh).

Wetlands... Continued from page 2

Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Unit 1B Wetland Enhancement

A 6,000-foot-long levee will be constructed to divide a wetland management unit so water management may

be improved. The levee will enhance the refuge manager's ability to control vegetation and allow water levels for Ibis and Tri-colored Blackbird nesting during the summer months.

Wood Warbler Sightings

Nashville Warbler

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Apr. 8 | Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF | AR |
| Apr. 10 | Log Pond, Arcata, HUM | CO |
| Apr. 11 | Arcata Marsh, HUM | PO |
| Apr. 14 (up to 15) | Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo SP, CC | SG, JT |
| Apr. 14 | Noble Gulch, Capitola, SCZ | DSu |
| Apr. 14 | Grant Ranch CP, SCL | MR |
| Apr. 16-20 | Lick Mountain, SF | ASH, DA |
| Apr. 16 (20) | Castle Rock RP, CC | JT |
| Apr. 18 | Pine Lake, SF | JMo, RFi |
| Apr. 18-25 (1-3) | Soquel Demonstration SF, SCZ | DSu |
| Apr. 22(2) | Henry Coe SP, SCL | MM |

Cape May Warbler

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----|
| Apr. 8 (from Feb. 3) | Seadrift, MRN | DQ |
|----------------------|---------------|----|

Black-throated Green Warbler

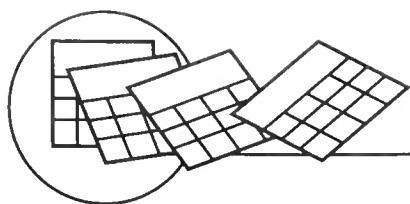
| | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Apr. 10-14 | Pine Lake, SF | JW, CL, HC, MOB |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|

Palm Warbler

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Apr. 9 (from Mar. 10) | Seadrift, MRN | DQ |
| Apr. 12-16 (1-2) | Arcata, HUM | ABB, MMo |
| Apr. 15 | AMSP, MTY | RiF |
| Apr. 22 (2) | Pacifica, SM | DS |

Abbreviations for Observers: BA, Brian Accord; DAL, Dustin Alcalá; FA, Fran Alvernez; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; DA, David Armstrong; FB, Florence Bennett; JB, Jeanne Bonner; BB, Bill Bousman; RC, Richard Carlson; LC, Les Chibana; JC, Jack Cole; LCo, Luke Cole; HC, Hugh Cotter; AC, Alex Cruz; SJD, Stephen J. Davies; MD, Matthew Dodder; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; RF, Ron Felzer; RFe, Rich Ferrick; RFi, Robbie Fischer; RF, Rob Fowler; RiF, Rick Fournier; DG, Don Ganton; AG, Alexander Gauguine; JG, James Gilroy; SG, Steve Glover; JH, Jean Harrison; RH, Rob Hewitt; JHi, Jan Hintermeister; AH, Anne Hoff; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; PLT, Peter La Tourette; JL, Jim Leight; LL, Leslie Lieurance; CL, Calvin Lou; WM, Wayne Macon; MM, Mike Mammoser; MOB, Many Observers; JM, John Mariani; TM, Tristan McKee; KM, Kevin McKereghan; CM, Cheryl Millett; JMo, Joe Morlan; MMo, Mark Morrisette; DM, Dan Murphy; KN, Kristi Nelson; CO, Chet Ogan; PO, Patrick Oliver; DQ, Dave Quady; BR, Bob Reiling; BRi, Bob Richmond; AR, Allan Ridley; MR, Mike Rogers; KR, Kerry Ross; PS, Paul Saraceni; MS, Michelle Scott; DS, Dan Singer; AS, Anne Spence; PSp, Paul Springer; GS, Georgia Stigall; DSu, David Suddjian; LS, Linda Sullivan; RSTh, Ron S. Thom; JT, Jim Tietz; VT, Vivek Tiwari; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; MU, Myra Ulvang; FV, Frank Vanslager; DW, Dan Williams; JW, Jay Withgott; JY, James Yurchenco.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; CC, Contra Costa; CP, County Park; ED, El Dorado; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAS, Lassen; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; STA, Stanislaus; SFo, State Forest; SP, State Park.



June Meeting

Plan Now to Attend the GGAS Annual Meeting and Picnic at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park on Saturday June 30th

June 30 will be the date for the GGAS Annual Membership meeting. The Annual Meeting is the time when we install and welcome the newly elected board members. Of course, we also want to thank the outgoing board members.

The picnic will begin at 12 noon and run until three in the afternoon. It promises to be a great day so make sure you circle the day on your cal-

endar. If you have any questions call the GGAS office at 510.843.2222. We hope to see you there!!!

We have reserved the 7-table picnic area in Golden Gate Park near Stow Lake. The Picnic tables are just to the west of the Boat House. We will provide hot coals and cold drinks, bring your own BBQ fixings and join us for the Annual Meeting.

2002 East Africa Trip

Golden Gate Audubon is again sponsoring a bird and nature tour to East Africa in 2002, this time led by George Peyton, who has led foreign birding/nature tours for over 25 years, including 5 to East Africa. This tour will be very reasonably priced and will be a perfect opportunity for anyone who has been thinking of going to this incredible natural wonderland. Save September 20, 2001 on your calendar for a special slide program on this East Africa Tour that George will be presenting in Berkeley at the Northbrae Community Church. Anyone interested in receiving an itinerary or hearing more about the trip may call George Peyton at (510) 433-2609, and leave your name, address and telephone number if he is not immediately available.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

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